

HOUSE BILL 1478

By Parkinson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,
Chapter 13, relative to charter schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-110(b), is amended by deleting "ten (10) academic years" and substituting "five (5) academic years".

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-110(c), is amended by deleting "ten (10) academic years" and substituting "five (5) academic years" and by designating the existing language as subdivision (1) and adding the following as a new subdivision:

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (c)(1), an authorizer may, in the authorizer's discretion, renew a charter agreement for a period not to exceed ten (10) academic years based on the public charter school's academic and operational performance, demonstrated capacities, and unique educational circumstances.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-13-108(c), is amended by designating the existing language as subdivision (1) and adding the following as a new subdivision:

(2) The local board of education may approve or deny a public charter school application based on the number of public schools, including public charter schools, already serving the LEA within which the public charter school is applying to operate, and the enrollment in each of the schools. The commission shall not approve for operation any public charter school that the commission determines will impair the ability of the existing public schools, including public charter schools, to maintain adequate student enrollment or continue serving the students, LEA, or community.

SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 of this act take effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it, and apply to charter agreements executed or renewed on or after that date. Section 3 of this act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.